

Soil and Water Conservation Cost Share Programs

**NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer
Services**

Division of Soil & Water Conservation

Vernon Cox, Director

April 12, 2018



SWC Cost Share Programs

- Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP)
 - Addresses water quality problems on agricultural lands
- Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)
 - Addresses water quality problems on non-agricultural lands
- Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)
 - Addresses water quantity needs on agricultural lands

Program Implementation

Locally Led Conservation

- ▶ Delivered through 96 local soil & water conservation districts (SWCDs)
- ▶ NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission
 - ▶ Sets statewide rules and policies
 - ▶ Allocates funds to local SWCDs
- ▶ Local districts
 - ▶ Set local funding priorities,
 - ▶ Receive and rank applications,
 - ▶ Develop conservation plans and design practices
 - ▶ Oversee and certify implementation



Agriculture Cost Share Program



A voluntary, cost share based program offering financial and technical assistance for the installation of best management practices to address nonpoint source pollution.

Agriculture Cost Share Program

| Fiscal Year | District Requests | Appropriation | Expenditures* |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 2016 | \$18,670,946 | \$4,016,998 [#] | \$3,851,817 |
| 2017 | \$18,286,819 | \$4,016,998 | \$4,415,635 |

**Includes contracts initiated in the most recent three fiscal years.*

[#]This include \$500,000 appropriation using TVA funds

FY2017 Funding for Technical Assistance

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Total appropriated | \$ 2,448,778 |
|--------------------|--------------|

| | |
|--|-------|
| Technical positions (FTE) in 98 counties. Cost share is an average of 40.2% of salaries. | 102.6 |
|--|-------|

| | |
|---|----------|
| Operating Expenses per FTE (recurring and non-recurring) | \$ 1,230 |
|---|----------|

Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP)

Best Management Practices fall into 5 categories

- Sediment/Nutrient Delivery Reduction
- Erosion Reduction/Nutrient Loss Reduction
- Agricultural Chemical Pollution Prevention
- Animal Waste Management
- Stream Protection from Animals

Sediment/Nutrient Delivery Reduction



Erosion Reduction/Nutrient Loss Reduction



Agricultural Chemical Pollution Prevention



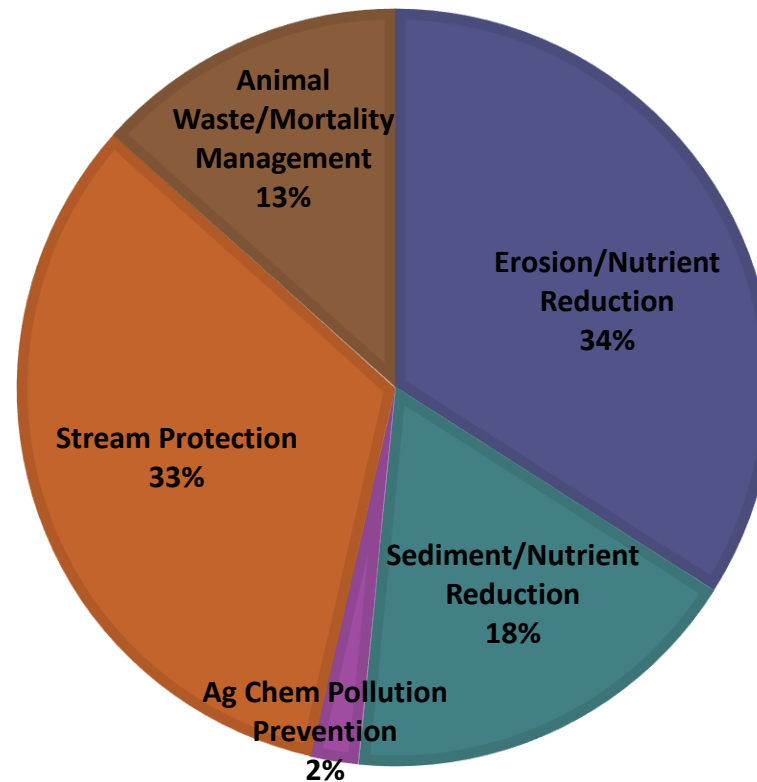
Animal Waste Management



Stream Protection from Animals



2017 ACSP Contracts by Category, State Appropriations



ACSP Cumulative Benefits

1984 - 2017

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Total Number of Contracts | 60,053 |
|---------------------------|--------|

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Acres Affected | 3.3 million acres |
|----------------|-------------------|

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Soil Saved Annually | 7.6 million tons |
|---------------------|------------------|

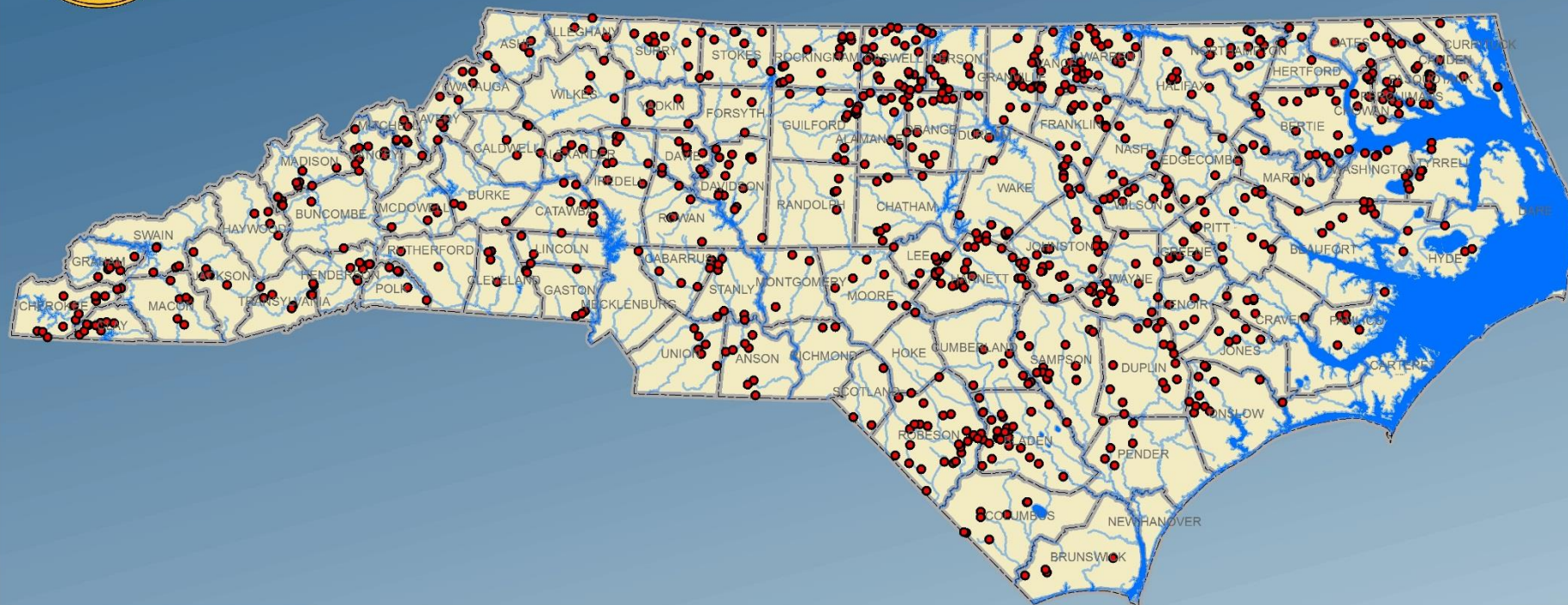
| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Nitrogen (N) Saved Annually | 21 million lbs |
|--------------------------------|----------------|

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Phosphorus (P) Saved Annually | 6.5 million lbs |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|

ACSP Program Accomplishments 1984 - 2017

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Cropland Conversion | 208,025 acres |
| Waste Structures | 4,131 structures |
| Water Control Structures | 4,436 structures |
| Livestock Exclusion Fencing | 1,378 miles |
| Conservation Tillage | 664,269 acres |
| Riparian Buffers | 17,022 acres |
| Chemical Handling/Management | 161 structures |





Legend

- ACSP BMPs
- Water Bodies
- Major Rivers
- County Boundaries



Soil and Water Conservation Commission Funded Best Management Practices Contracted in 2017

0 10 20 40 60 80 100 120 Miles



Community Conservation Assistance Program



A voluntary, incentive-based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of various best management practices (BMPs) on urban, suburban and rural lands not directly involved with agriculture production.

Community Conservation Assistance Program

| Fiscal Year | District Requests | Appropriation | Expenditures* |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2016 | \$2,217,930 | \$136,378 | \$133,854 |
| 2017 | \$2,230,853 | \$136,378 | \$137,014 |

**Includes contracts initiated in the most recent three fiscal years.*

CCAP Practices

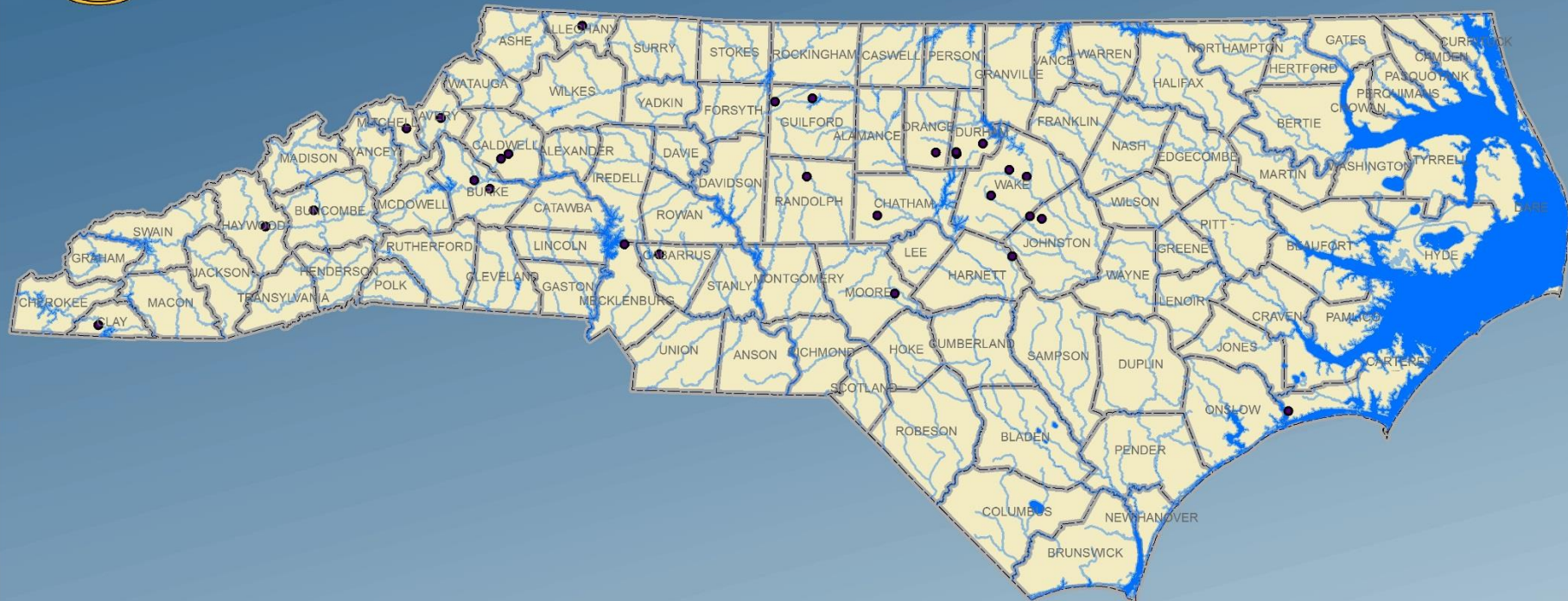
- Raingarden/wetland
- Abandoned well closure
- Cistern
- Impervious surface conversion
- Streambank & shoreline protection
- Riparian Buffer
- Diversion
- Critical Area Planting



CCAP Cumulative Benefits

2008 - 2017

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Stormwater Wetlands | 6.77 acres |
| Critical Area Plantings | 41 acres |
| Riparian Buffers | 7.1 acres |
| Marsh Sills | 4,295 linear feet |
| Stream Restoration or Stabilization | 58,741 linear feet |
| Abandoned Well Closures | 267 wells |
| Cisterns | 195 cisterns |



Legend

- CCAP BMPs
- Water Bodies
- Major Rivers
- County Boundaries



Soil and Water Conservation Commission Funded Best Management Practices Contracted in 2017

0 10 20 40 60 80 100 120 Miles



Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)



Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)

AgWRAP was established through S.L. 2011-145 to assist farmers and landowners in doing any one or more of the following:

- Identify opportunities to increase water use efficiency, availability and storage;
- Implement best management practices (BMPs) to conserve and protect water resources;
- Increase water use efficiency;
- Increase water storage and availability for agricultural purposes.

Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program

| Fiscal Year | District Requests | Appropriation | Expenditures* |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2016 | \$5,375,615 | \$977,500 | \$521,484 |
| 2017 | \$6,854,975 | \$1,477,500 | \$900,187 |

**Includes contracts initiated in the most recent three fiscal years.*

Water Supply Wells



Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal



Agricultural Ponds²⁷

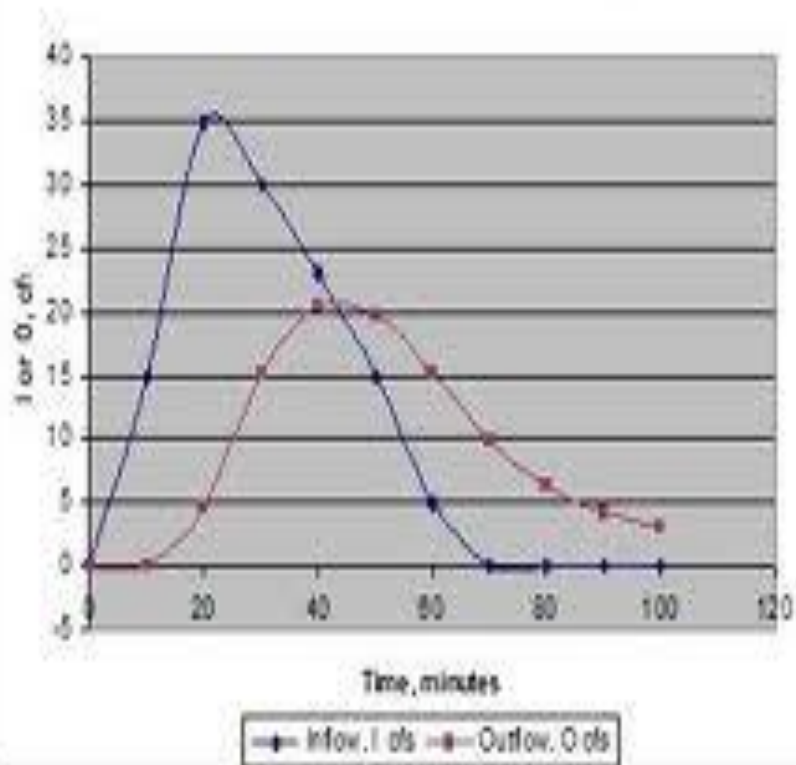


Public benefits of AgWRAP

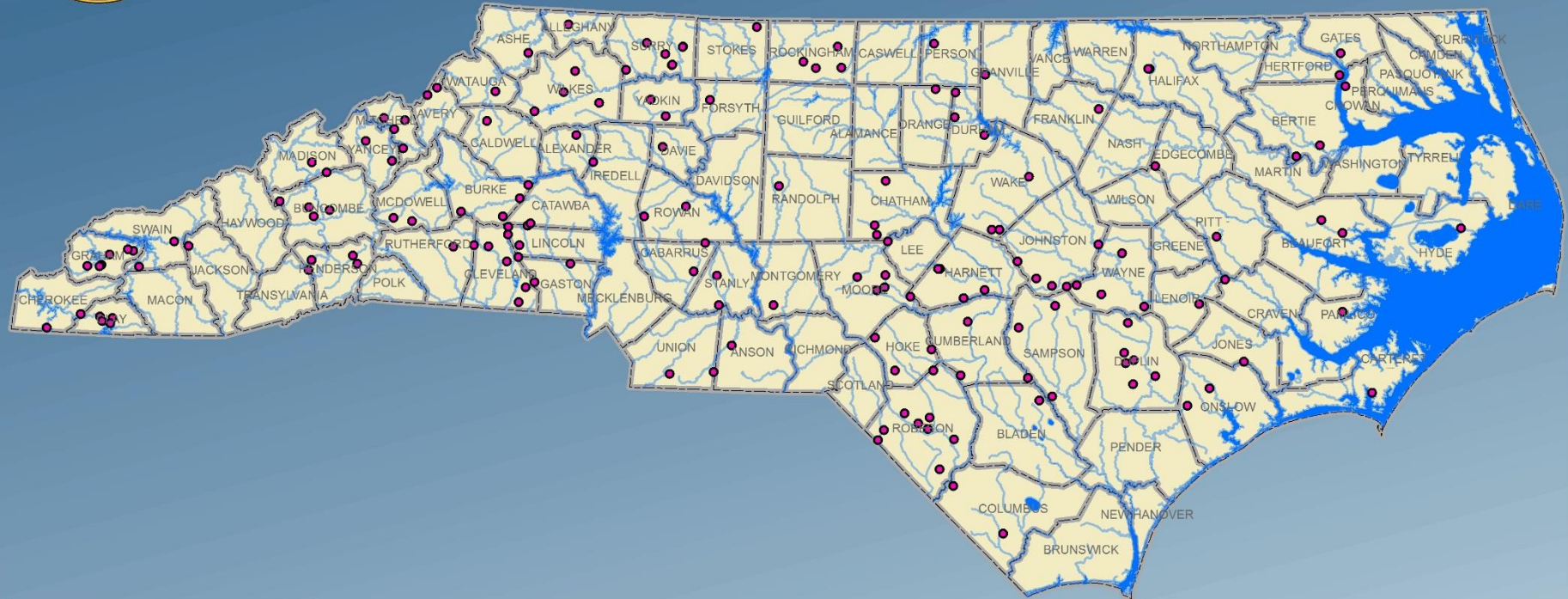
- Reducing competition for water resources by public users
- Improving the efficient use of water while enabling the industry to produce food, fiber and other agricultural products
- Preparing the agricultural industry to weather future droughts
- Generating and protecting local jobs in agriculture and agribusiness, including the Green Industry.

Benefits of On-Farm Storage

Inflow and Outflow Hydrographs



- Reduces competition for water supply
- Delays and reduces peak flow
- Provides flood protection
- Provides sediment and nutrient trapping
- Permits nutrient recycling



Legend

- AgWRAP BMPs
- Water Bodies
- Major Rivers
- County Boundaries



**Soil and Water Conservation Commission Funded Best
Management Practices Contracted in 2017**

0 10 20 40 60 80 100 120 Miles



AgWRAP Accomplishments

2012 - 2017

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Agricultural Water Use Ponds | 63 ponds |
|------------------------------|----------|

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Agricultural Pond Repair/Retrofits | 43 ponds |
|---------------------------------------|----------|

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Pond Sediment Removals | 52 ponds |
|------------------------|----------|

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Water Supply Wells | 236 wells |
|--------------------|-----------|

| | |
|---|------------|
| Conservation Irrigation System Conversions | 29 systems |
|---|------------|

Why Cost Share?

- Agriculture is North Carolina's #1 Industry.
 - Help NC farmers be more productive and better stewards of natural resources.
- Agriculture remains under scrutiny from EPA and state regulators for non-point source pollution.
 - CAFO non-discharge permits
 - NC River Basin Nutrient Rules (Neuse, Tar-Pam, Falls Lake, Jordan Lake, + *High Rock Lake*)
 - Turbidity Standards (15A NCAC 2B .0211(21))
 - EPA CWA 303(d) list - Impaired Streams
 - Endangered Species Act
- AgWRAP
 - Future Droughts + Population Growth will challenge agriculture.
- CCAP provides Districts an opportunity to address local water quality concerns that aren't specific to agriculture.

Future Priorities

- Relevance
 - Farmers/Landowners
 - Processors/Retailers
- Outreach
 - Limited Resource Farmers
 - Small/Beginning/Organic Farmers
- Maintain District Infrastructure
 - Ongoing Cost Share Programs
 - Adapting to changing land use
 - Disaster Response - \$32.8 Billion
 - Swine Floodplain Buyout
- Engineer Staffing

QUESTIONS?

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